

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated May 17, 2007.

Claims 1-9 were rejected as being unpatentable over Nealon (5,463,659), in view of Kim (6,882,860). Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended, in part, to provide for, “[a] portable telephone set, comprising:...a memory for storing a menu and key allocation information, the key allocation information indicating whether the input of each of said keys is valid or invalid; key input discrimination means for discriminating whether the input of any one of said keys is valid or invalid based on the key allocation information stored in said memory; ...the key allocation information being updated after a change of a hierarchy of the menu, the change of the hierarchy of the menu inputting after the discrimination that the input of any one of said keys other than a power supply key is valid.”

Independent claim 5 has been amended, in part, to provide for, “[a] key operation validity/invalidity notification method for a portable telephone set which includes call termination notification means and key inputting means including a plurality of keys for accepting an input of any of said keys by user of said portable telephone set, comprising:

- a. a memory storage step of storing a menu and key allocation information in a memory, the key allocation information indicating whether the input of any one of said keys is valid or invalid;
- b. a key input discrimination step of discriminating whether an input of any one of said keys is valid or invalid based on the key allocation information stored in said memory; ...
- d. a key allocation information updating step, the key allocation information updating step being executed if it is discriminated in step b that the input of any one of said keys other than a power supply key is valid and if a change of a hierarchy of the menu occurs after said discrimination in step b; and
- e. a step of returning to step b.”

Independent claim 9 has been amended, in part, to provide for, “[a] computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program for a portable telephone set which includes call termination notification means and key inputting means including a plurality of keys for accepting an input of any of said keys by a user of said portable telephone set, said program causing a computer to execute the steps of :

- a. storing a menu and key allocation information in a memory, the key allocation information indicating whether the input of any one of said keys is valid or invalid;

b. discriminating whether the input of any one of said keys is valid or invalid based on the key allocation information stored in said memory; ...

e. updating the key allocation information if it is discriminated in step b that the input of any one of said keys other than a power supply key is valid and if a change of a hierarchy of the menu occurs after said discrimination in step b; and

f. returning to step b.”

Antecedent basis for the amendments to independent claims 1, 5 and 9 is found in the specification, for example, on page 7, lines 7-15, and on page 8, lines 13-20, and in the drawings, for example, in Fig. 2.

Claims 4 and 8 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, as being substantially redundant to amended independent claims 1 and 5, respectively.

The Examiner, in support of the rejection of claims 1-9, indicates, with respect to claims 4 and 8, that Nealon teaches a memory, citing column 6, lines 9-12, (Office Action, page 6, line 12). Column 6, lines 9-12, of Nealon refer to the implementation of control unit 210 through the use of a microcomputer containing ROM, RAM and through use of the proper coding. However, Nealon does not appear to teach, disclose, or suggest, a memory for storing a menu and key allocation information, the key allocation information being updated if there is a discrimination of the input of a valid input key other than a power supply key and if a change of a hierarchy of the menu occurs, as claimed in independent claims 1, 5 and 9.

With regard to Kim, that reference discloses a cellular terminal which provides different call termination alert tones and different call termination display messages according to types of terminated calls, (abstract), but it nowhere appears to disclose, teach or suggest a memory for storing a menu and key allocation information, the key allocation information being updated if there is a discrimination that the output of a key other than a power supply key is valid and if a change of a hierarchy of the menu occurs, as claimed in independent claims 1, 5 and 9.

Since each of claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 is directly or indirectly dependant upon one of independent claims 1 and 5, each of claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 is allowable over Nealon in view of Kim for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claims 1, 5 and 9 over Nealon in view of Kim.

Claim 10 was rejected as being unpatentable over Nealon, in view of Kim and Serrano (5,640,441). Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to provide in part, for, “[a] portable telephone set which comprises:... a memory for storing allocation information of individual ones of said keys and a menu, said allocation information being updated after a change of a hierarchy of the menu ...”


Antecedent basis for the amendment to independent claim 10 is found, for example, in the specification on page 8, lines 13-20, and in the drawings, for example, in Fig. 2.

The Examiner states, with regard to Nealon, that Nealon teaches a memory, citing column 6, lines 9-12, (Office Action, page 7, line 16). Nealon, however, does not appear to teach, disclose or suggest a memory for storing allocation information of individual ones of keys and a menu, the updating of the allocation information being after a change of a hierarchy of the menu, as claimed in independent claim 10. Kim, as previously pointed out, deals with call termination alert tones and call termination display messages, but it does not appear to teach, disclose, or suggest the updating of key allocation information after a change of hierarchy of a menu. With regard to Serrano, that reference, deals with incoming call detection and alarm circuitry for cellular telephones. It does not appear to disclose, teach, or suggest allocation information of individual ones of keys of a portable telephone set, which allocation information is updated after a change of hierarchy of a menu, as claimed in independent claim 10.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the allowance of claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-10 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAX MOSKOWITZ
Registration No.: 30,576
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403
Telephone: (212) 382-0700